

- CHESS (History)

Before we go over the various chess openings and tactics, it is important that we know how this beloved game originated. The history of chess is fascinating enough and you would be impressed to see how this game has transformed over the years. The version that we know today is not how it started centuries ago. Let us rewind the clocks and look deep into the marvelous history of this game.

- Chatrang

Even though we cannot associate a certain starting timeline with this game, we will have to go by the time frame agreed upon by most historians. The game of Chatrang was believed to have been invented in India around the sixth century.

It was during the rule of the Guptas that the game of Chatrang was discovered. The game was then called Chatrang, based on the four divisions of the military. At that point of time, the four divisions of the army were the elephants, infantry, horse cavalry and chariots, and the pieces <sup>in</sup> the game represented these four divisions. In the game of Chatrang, the King was accompanied by his general or counselor and there was no queen.

The rules of Chatrang differ from the rules of modern chess in many aspects and though these games had different rules, the game of Chatrang can be played

easily on the modern chessboard. In the game of Chaturanga, the soldier was allowed to move only one square as part of his initial move unlike the pawns of today, which are allowed to move two squares as part of their initial move. Another important difference between the two games lay in the way the pieces were arranged on the board. In the modern version of chess, the kings are placed facing each other. However, in the game of Chaturanga, the kings were placed in a diagonally opposite fashion.

A chief distinction in rules is that in Chaturanga, to win, the player must eliminate all the pieces of the opponent, except their king; hence it is very clear that the concept of checkmate does not exist in the game of Chaturanga. Another key variance is that if a player manages to stalemate the opponent, the player who is stalemated wins the game. This contradicts with the rule in modern chess, namely, stalemates are considered as draw.

### Travel to Persia

When chaturanga moved to Persia, this game underwent several changes and the biggest revolution in this game of chess happened at this point of time. The game soon became a hit among the noble families of Persia and very rapidly became an integral part of formal education in Persia. When chaturanga moved



to Persia, and ~~very rapidly~~ became an it was known as "Shatranj", and when you look at the rules of this version, you will realize that it is not so different from the modern version that we are now accustomed to; nevertheless, there were still differences between the two. It was during this stage when several modern day tactics emerged, in other words, many famous chess tactics employed today were actually derived from Shatranj.

The way the various pieces were arranged on the board is not different when you look at both the games. The significant difference between the two, like in Chaturanga, lays in the fact that the pawn was not allowed to move more than one step initially under Shatranj. Also, just like how it was in Chaturanga, if a player managed to eliminate the pieces of the opponent, except their king, he was considered as a winner in the game of Shatranj. On the other hand, if a player managed to stalemate the opponent, he was considered as a winner. This is the polar opposite of the stalemate rule under Chaturanga.

It was during this period when several prominent players emerged. These popular players wrote several books on the various strategies, openings and tactics also spoke of their experiences. These literary accounts by the Shatranj players were the initial contributions made to chess literature. A few noteworthy Shatranj players

during this period were Al-Razi, As-Suli and Rabnab.

## Chess in Europe

When the Islamic conquest of Persia happened in the 7th century, the game of Shatranj travelled to all the muslim countries. By the end of 1000 A.D. this game soon became popular in Russia and Europe. Eventually, the game even spread to Japan and China. The Japanese and Chinese improved the game of Shatranj and brought about a lot of variations and these versions of chess have major differences from the style of chess that is played all over the world.

From the beginning of the 13th century till the end of the 15th century, this game underwent a lot of changes. Several rules of Shatranj were changed and newer tactics were discovered and employed. The rules that were framed during this period were soon accepted all over Europe. These rules are still in practice in all tournaments across the globe even today and it was during this time that the game of Shatranj started transforming slowly into the chess.

Eventually, more rules were created to ensure that the game did not take long to finish. The pawns were allowed to move two squares as a part of



their initial move precisely <sup>due</sup> to this reason. The move known as 'en passant' also came into existence to speed up the game and in addition, it was during this time that the concept of castling was also introduced. With the advent of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the powers of the Queen and Bishop increased tremendously. The Queen gained a lot of power and there was a point in time when chess was referred to as "New Queen Chess" because of the powers bestowed upon the Queen. When the fifteenth century rolled, the game started resembling what we are now familiar with today. Several famous chess strategies and tactics were also discovered during this era.

I hope you found the history of chess fascinating and intriguing. Who would have thought that the simple game of Chaturanga would evolve into one of the most popular games in the world today, chess!

# HISTORY (EVOLUTION) OF CHESS

22-11-2023

## • The Inception of Chaturanga (6th Century)

The roots of chess trace back to the ancient Indian game Chaturanga. This early version of chess, played on an 8x8 grid, served as a battle simulation incorporating elements of Indian military.



## • Evolution into Shatranj (7th Century)

With the spread of Islam into Persia, Chaturanga was adapted into a game known as shatranj. This version of the game began to resemble modern chess more closely, though the movement of pieces and the rules differed.



## • The Birth of Modern Chess (15th Century)

As chess spread into Europe in the Middle Ages, the rules were further modified to create the game we know today. Around the late 15th century, the powers of queen, bishop and pawn were significantly expanded, leading to faster, more dynamic gameplay.



## • The First International Chess Tournament (19th Century)

The first international chess tournament was held in London in 1851. This period also saw the standardization of rules across different countries, facilitated by the establishment of chess organisations.



## • The rise of Computers and Online Chess (21st Century)

The latter part of the 20th century saw the development of computer chess, culminating in IBM's Deep Blue defeating the reigning world champion, Garry Kasparov, in 1997. In the 21st Century, online chess platforms have popularized the game globally, while advanced chess engines like Stockfish and AlphaZero have changed how players study and understand the game.



## • Nature of the Game

9

The game of chess is a war fought (not physically) between two players with a set of chessmen each on a square board called a "Chessboard".

## • Chessboard

The board represents a battlefield in the form of  $8 \times 8 = 64$  squares, alternately coloured light and dark and traditionally called "Black" and "White" squares.

## • Object of the Game

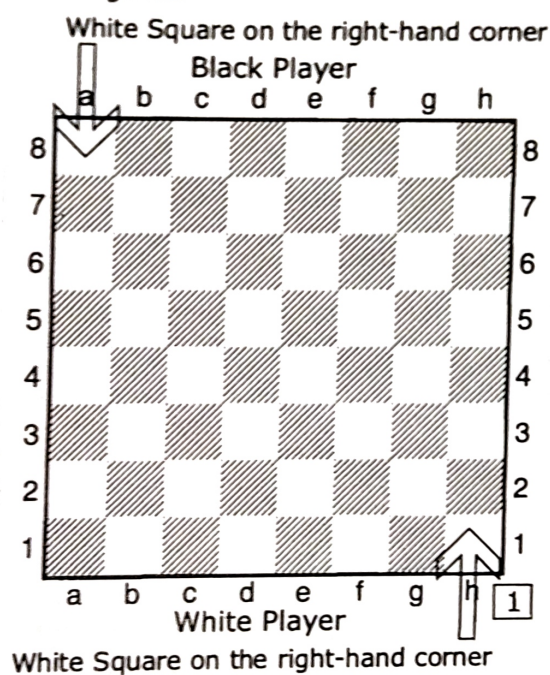
Chess is a war and, as in any war, the prime object is to force capitulation of your enemy's king. Therefore the object of the game of chess is to "Checkmate the Opposing king".

The "Checkmate" is a position on the chessboard where the king cannot escape capture on being attacked by an enemy chessman. The side that declares 'Check' & 'Mate' wins the game.

# • Placement of the Chessboard :-

The chessboard is placed between the players in such a way that there is a light coloured square (white square) on the right-hand corner.

Diagram 1 shows how the chessboard is placed at the start of the game.



## • Chessmen

(11)

The chessmen as a whole are the forces engaged in the combat.

The game of chess is played with a total of 32-Chessmen, which are distributed evenly at the start of the game - each side has 16 chessmen.

In other words the white player and the black player, at the start of the game, has 16-chessmen each at their disposal.

The chessmen as a whole are referred as "Material".

Leaving apart the pawns, the remaining chessmen are called "Pieces".

## • Types of Chessmen

The type of chessmen at the disposal of each side consists of a :

(i) King

(ii) Queen

(iii) Rook

(iv) Bishop

(v) Knight

(vi) Pawn



The break-up of the 16-chessmen for each of the players is as per the following chart:

| Chessmen                                                                           | White                                                                               | Black | Figurine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| KING                                                                               | 1                                                                                   | 1     | <table><tr><th colspan="2">Figurine</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | Figurine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Figurine                                                                           |                                                                                     |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                    |                                                                                     |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| QUEEN                                                                              | 1                                                                                   | 1     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| ROOK                                                                               | 2                                                                                   | 2     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| BISHOP                                                                             | 2                                                                                   | 2     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| KNIGHT                                                                             | 2                                                                                   | 2     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| PAWN                                                                               | 6                                                                                   | 6     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| Total →                                                                            | 16                                                                                  | 16    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |

### • Arrangement of the Chessmen

1. The pieces are set up in the 1<sup>st</sup> row of squares on each side of the player.
2. The pawns are set up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row of squares on each side of the player.

Let us arrange the chessmen now. We shall start arranging from the corner squares and then proceed towards the center in the order given below:

1. Each of the rooks will occupy the corner squares. Accordingly, the player with white pieces will place his rooks on the two available corner squares at his left and right-hand side. The player with

Black pieces will place both his rooks similarly.

2. Each of the Knights will occupy the square next to the Rook.

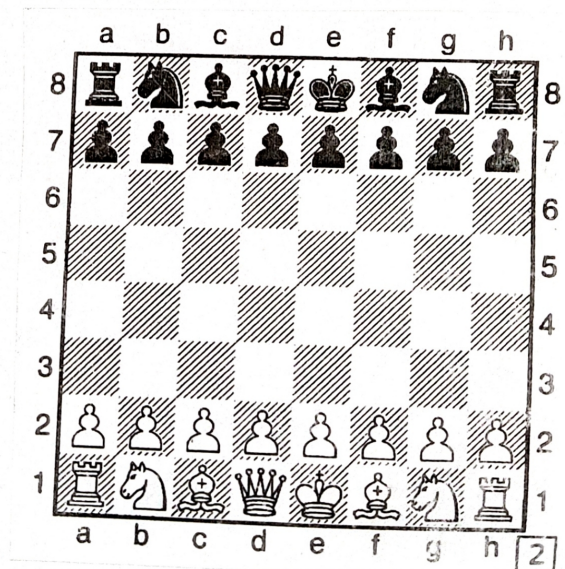
3. Each of the Bishops will occupy the square next to the Knight.

4. The White Queen will occupy the White on Light-coloured square and the Black Queen stands on the Black or Dark-coloured square. "Queens occupy the square of their own colour."

5. Naturally the King stands on reverse colour at the start of the game i.e. the White king on Black or Dark coloured square and the Black king on White or Light-coloured square.

6. The pawns are placed on the 2nd row of squares in front of the pieces.

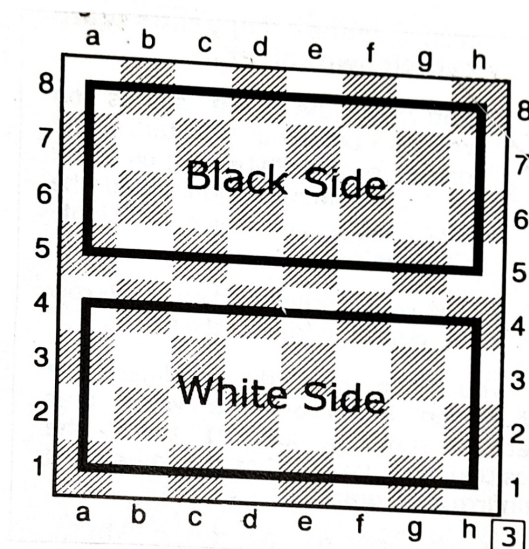
If you have correctly arranged the chessmen in accordance with rules detailed above in serial 1 to 6, the position on your chessboard should confirm to diagram 2





- Understanding the chessboard better

The half of the chessboard (32-squares) on which the White chessmen stand is called the 'White Side' and the half with the Black chessmen on it is called the 'Black Side'. This is indicated in Diagram 3.

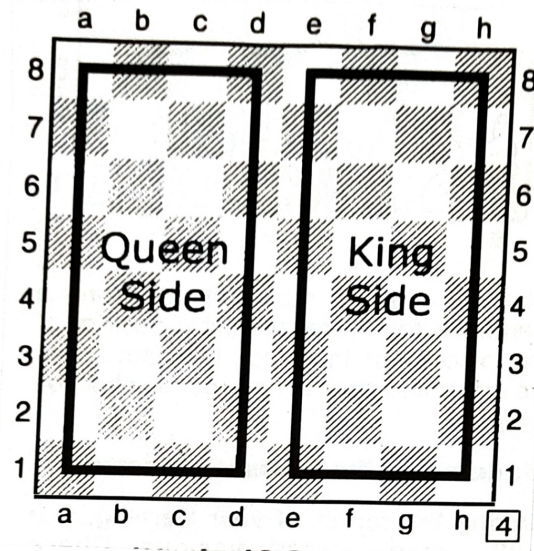


If we are to draw a line vertically down the middle of the chessboard, the left-half of the chessboard on the side of the player with white pieces is called 'Queen-Side' and right-half the 'King-Side'.

Remember, the White's King-side is always on his right and the Black's King-side always



On his left.  
This is shown in Diagram 4.



# • Rules for 'Moving' & 'Capturing'

## • Moving

1. A 'move' in the game of Chess means moving a Chessman from the square on which it is standing to another square.
2. The player having the 'White' chessmen makes the first move, which is followed by player having the 'Black' chessmen. Then the players moves alternately.
3. Unlike other board games, a player is obliged to make a move on his turn and he cannot 'Pass'.
4. A player is not allowed to make two consecutive moves.
5. A player is not allowed to move a chessman to a square which is already occupied by one of its own chessmen. In other words, two chessmen of the same colour cannot occupy the same square at the same time.
6. A player is said to have made an 'Illegal Move' if the move made is not in accordance with the rules of the game. The player is required to retract it and make a different move with the same chessman, provided that is legal. If it is not possible to make a legal move with the said chessman, he is free to make a legal move with any other chessman.

## ● 'Capturing'

1. 'Capturing' in Chess means moving a chessman to a square occupied by the opposing side's chessman. The opponent's chessman so captured is removed from the board and substituted with the chessman doing the capturing on that square. The captured chessman no longer takes a further part in the game. Thus, the number of chessmen in a game of chess always decreases and never increases.
2. 'Capturing' in chess is always an optional move and not compulsory.

## ● Act of 'Moving' & 'Capturing'

Here are the following competition rules pertaining to 'Moving' & 'Capturing'

1. Each move must be made with one hand only.
2. If a player on the move desires to adjust one of more pieces on their squares, he must express his intention to the opponent by saying "I adjust" or just 'adjust' before touching the chessman to be adjusted. Such adjustment should be made only in the presence of his opponent.



3. If the player having the move touches on the chessboard, with the intention of moving or capturing one or more of his own pieces, he must move the first piece touched that can be moved.

4. If the player having the move touches on the chessboard, with the intention of moving or capturing one or more of his opponent's pieces, he must capture the first piece touched that can be captured.

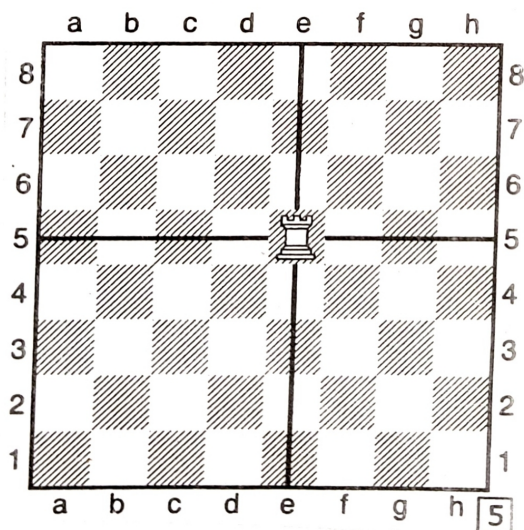
5. For the first completed 'Illegal move' made by a player, the opponent shall be awarded extra thinking time on his clock. However, for the second completed illegal move by the same player the arbiter shall declare the game lost.

## ● MOVEMENT of Chessmen

1. The 6 different types of chessmen have its own way of moving, distinct from each other.
2. The chessmen of the same type move in the same way.

### ● ROOK

The movement of Rook is very easy to learn - It's a 'straight-line' piece! It moves only in a straight line to any of the vacant square, horizontally or vertically, on the file or on the rank on which it stands, unless its way is obstructed.

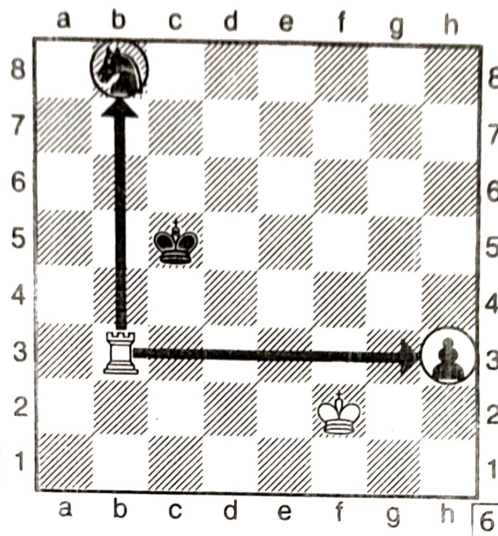


On the basis of the above rule, the white rook can move to any of the 14 squares indicated in diagram 5.

- Capture with the Rook:

The Rook captures the opposing chessman in the same way as it moves.

Diagram 6 White's Rook is attacking Black's Knight and Pawn and has option of capturing either of them.

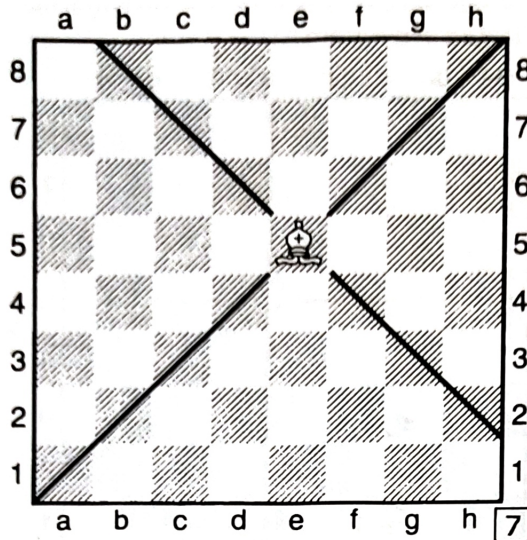


- BISHOP

The way in which the Bishop moves is opposite to that of the Rook. While the Rook moves straight along the file or the rank, the Bishop may move to any of the vacant square of its own colour on a diagonal, forward or backward, unless its way is obstructed. In diagram 7 White's Bishop can move to any of the 13 squares;

The important rule to remember is that the Bishop is the only chessman whose movement is restricted to its own colour.

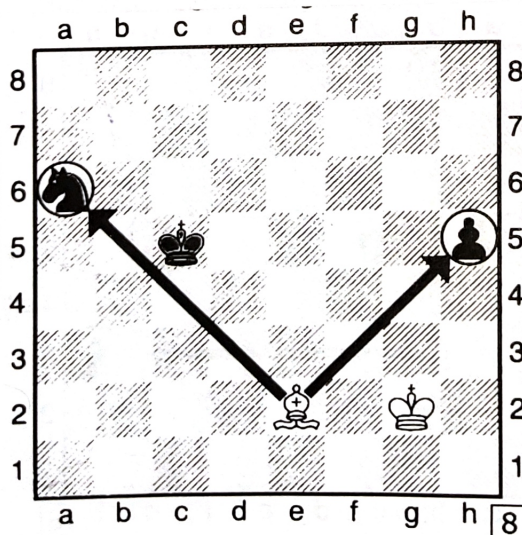




### • Capture with the Bishop:

The Bishop captures the opposing chessman in the way as it moves:

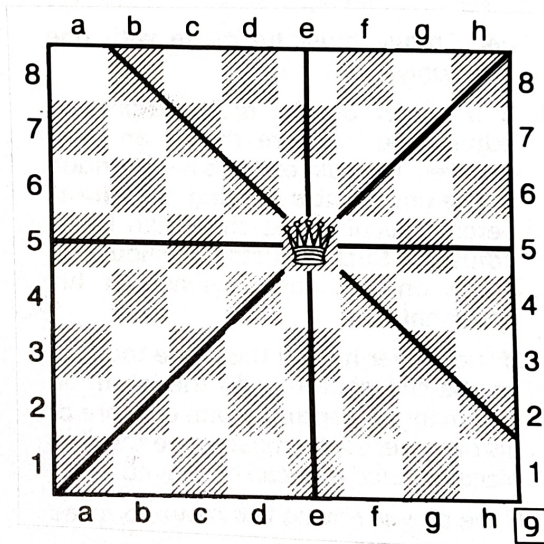
In Diagram 8 White's has the option of either capturing the Knight or pawn.



## • QUEEN

Designated as the 'Strongest' piece on the chessboard, the Queen may move to any square - straight or diagonally unless its path is obstructed. Simply put, the 'All-powerful' Queen comes in a Combo package of a 'Rook' and a 'Bishop' with great destructive abilities and speed more than F1 racing!

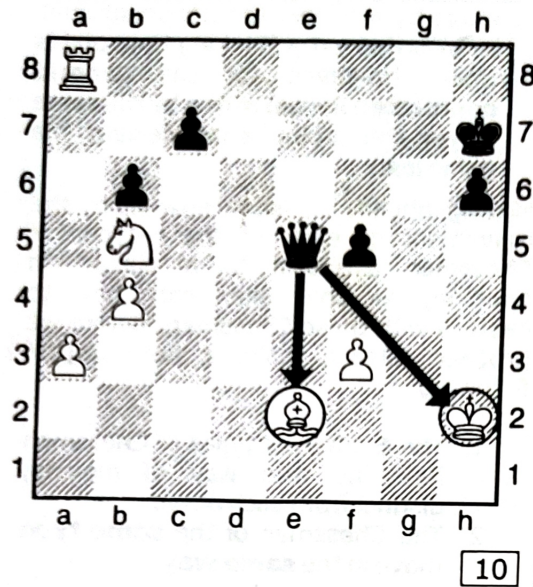
Diagram 9 shows all the 27 squares the Queen can reach:



## • Capture with the Queen

In diagram 10 the Black's Queen has a pleasant choice of capturing White's Bishop on the following move after White get his king out of check:





## KNIGHT

The knight's moves are distinct as compared to other pieces. It's the only chessmen which can jump over its own or the opposing chessmen. The knight moves two squares vertically and then one square horizontally and then one square vertically.

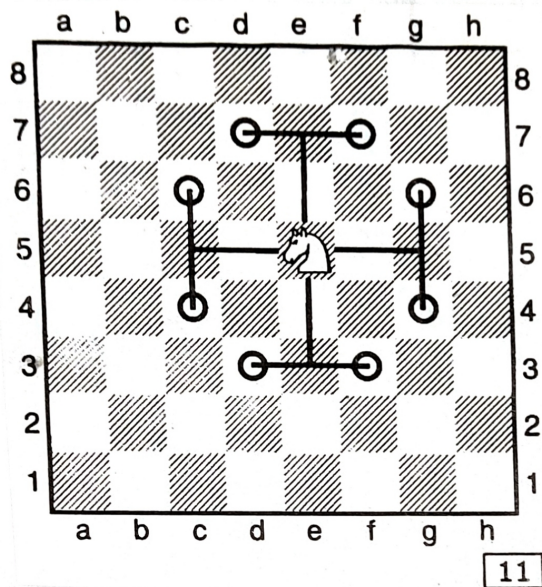
You have to simply remember the pattern that knight moves in a form of alphabetical letter 'L'. Traditionally, we say that "knight moves  $2\frac{1}{2}$  squares".

To ensure that you are moving the knight in a correct way, keep in mind that the square from which the knight moves and the one on which it lands are of opposite colour, not adjoining, but separated by one square.



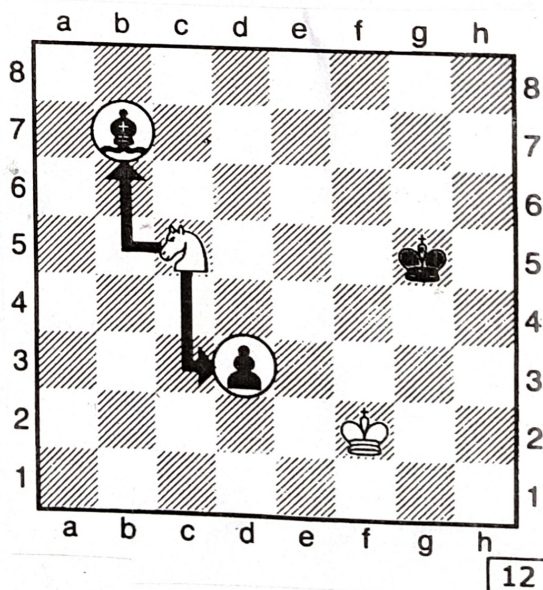
Thus, a knight standing on a white square will move to a black square and the knight standing on a black square will move to a white square.

In diagram 11 the knight may move to any of the 8 squares indicated by a circle:



### • Capture with the knight:

In diagram 12, the knight has the choice of either capturing Black's bishop on pawn

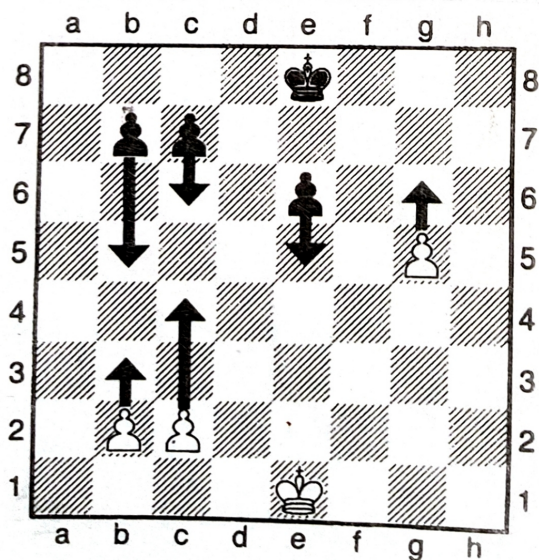


# PAWN

In comparison to other chessmen, the Pawn has a distinct way of moving, capturing.

1. The Pawn, unless its path is obstructed can move only one square forward (straight) on its file at a time.
2. As an exception to this rule, each of the Pawn, in the starting position, unless obstructed, are also allowed to move two squares at once.
3. The pawn is the only chessmen that is limited to moving in a forward direction and is not allowed to move backwards.

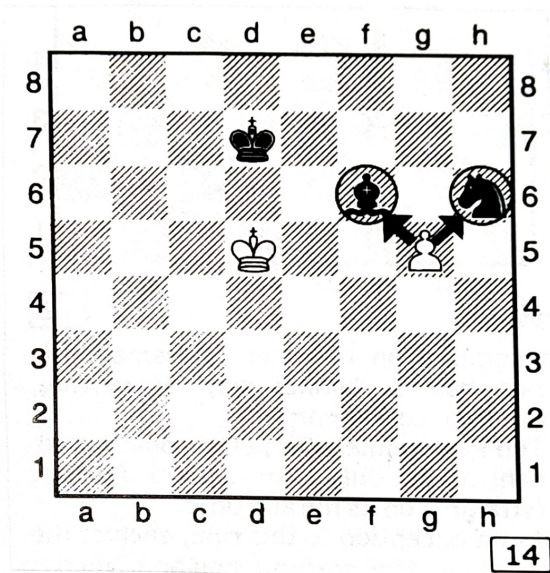
The movement of pawn, either 1-square or two-squares is illustrated in diagram 13:





- Capture with the Pawn:

Unlike the way it moves, pawn captures in a different manner - only one square diagonally forward to its left or right. In diagram 14 the White's pawn has a choice of either capturing the Bishop or knight:



- Pawn's special Power - 'Promotion'

Since the pawns cannot move backwards and its capturing zone limited to just one square diagonally to the left or right, it is considered as the weakest of all chessmen. However, it has got one unique characteristic, which has not been given to the Pieces:

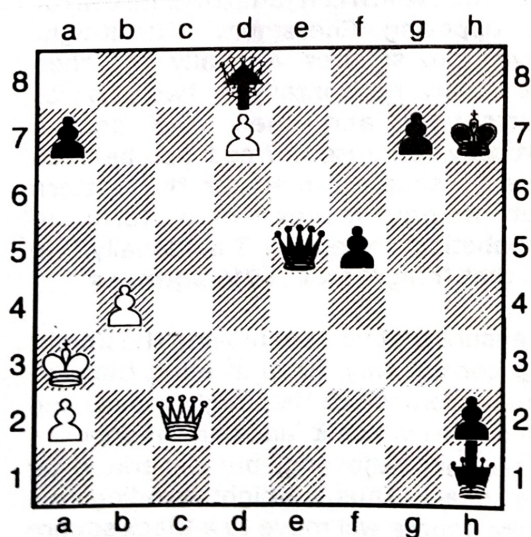
When a Pawn reaches end of the chessboard, it can transform itself either to a Queen, Rook, Bishop



on knight of the same colour!! This is known as 'Pawn Promotion'.

In vast majority of cases the Pawn would be promoted to a Queen as it is the most powerful piece on the chessboard. In such case the promotion is called 'Queening'.

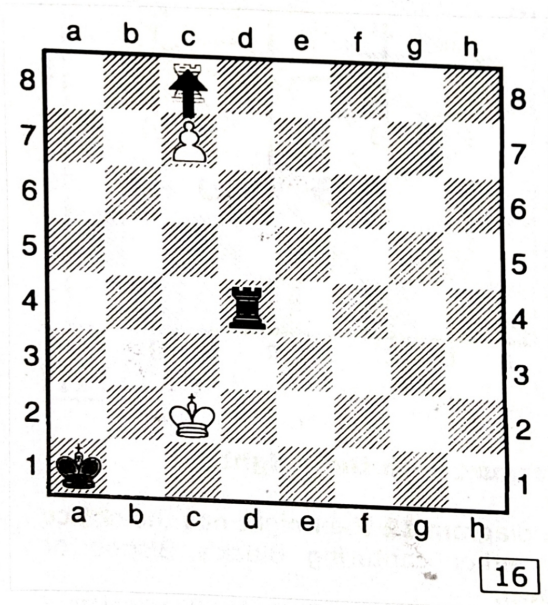
Diagram 15 illustrates a typical 'Pawn Promotion' or 'Queening' - from a game between Lasker vs Alekhine, Paris, 1913, wherein White is all set to promote his d8 pawn to a Queen, Black follows same with promotion of his h1 pawn to a Queen!



## • Pawn's Under-Promotion

Sometimes the position on the chessboard demands that the pawn be promoted to a Rook, knight or Bishop instead of a Queen (mostly to avoid stalemate or to create a 'knight-fork' or a 'Double Attack'). This is called 'Under-Promotion'.

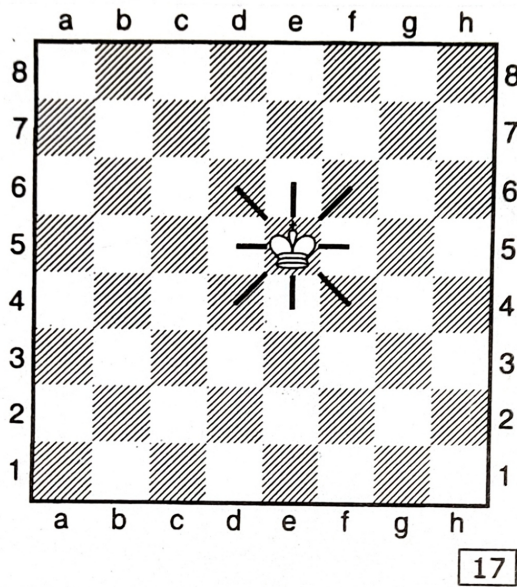
The most notable example of a necessary under-promotion is illustrated in diagram 16.





## KING

The king's movement is very simple to remember. It moves only one square in any direction. Diagram 17 indicates all the 8-squares, which a king can move to.



17

Some exceptions to the king's movement are:

1. The king is not allowed to move to a square, which is already in control of enemy chessmen.
2. It also means that as soon as the king is attacked by an enemy chessman i.e. put into Check, it is required to get out of it immediately on the move. If it cannot get out of 'Check' the game ends in victory in favour of the player who had delivered the lethal check.

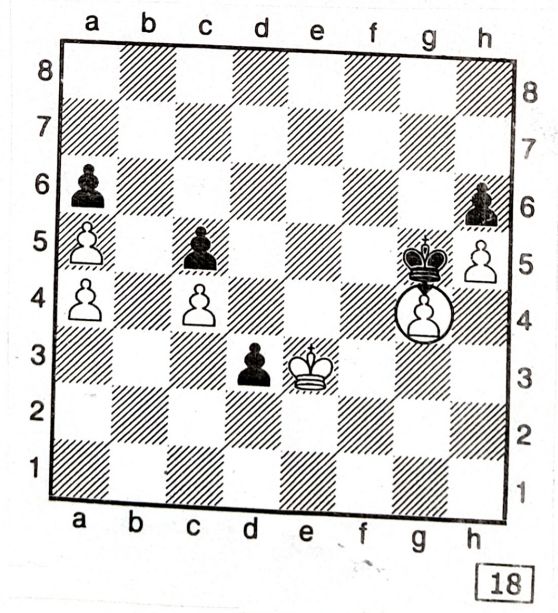


3 The rules of the game also provide that the king is not allowed to move to a square adjacent to his opposite king. Accordingly, both the kings are required to stand at least one square apart.

### • Capture with the king:

The king's capturing zone is limited to just one square in any direction - in the same way as it moves.

In diagram 18 Black's king can capture White's pawn on g4 but not the Pawn on h5.



# • Elements of Algebraic Chess Notations

## • Chess Symbols

SYMBOL

MEANING

1.  $\underline{+}$

White stands Slightly better

2.  $\overline{+}$

Black stands Slightly better

3.  $\pm$

White is better

4.  $\overline{-}$

Black is better

5.  $+ -$

White has a decisive advantage

6.  $- +$

Black has a decisive advantage

7.  $=$

Even (or Equality)

8.  $\uparrow$

with the initiative

9.  $\rightarrow$

with an attack

10.  $\infty$

With compensation

11.  $\leftrightarrow$

with counterplay

12.  $\infty$

unclear

13.  $\square$

better is

14.  $\Delta$

intending (With the Idea)

# SYMBOL

# MEANING

|     |    |                                                        |
|-----|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 15. | □  | Only move                                              |
| 16. | ⊙  | Zugzwang                                               |
| 17. | X  | Weak point (on capture)                                |
| 18. | +  | Check                                                  |
| 19. | #  | Checkmate                                              |
| 20. | ?  | Mistake (on a weak move)                               |
| 21. | ?? | A blunder                                              |
| 22. | !  | A very good move                                       |
| 23. | !! | An excellent move                                      |
| 24. | !? | A move deserving attention (or move worth considering) |
| 25. | ?! | A dubious move (or move of doubtful value)             |